

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 159 – SB 1465

February 20, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Extends the *Suicide Prevention Act of 2018* indefinitely. Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to compile data on the medications that were prescribed to those who died by suicide. Requires DOH to submit a report recommending any necessary programs or policies to prevent suicide deaths in this state to the Health Committee of the House of Representatives and the Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate, rather than the members of the General Assembly, no later than June 30, 2020, and by June 30 every two years thereafter.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures – \$12,900/One-Time
\$321,400/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- Public Chapter 1005 of the Public Acts of 2018 enacted the *Suicide Prevention Act of 2018*, set to sunset on June 30, 2021. To accomplish the requirements of the Act, the DOH required one Public Health Program Director (PHPD) 2 position. Due to the sunset date of the Act, this position was to be abolished at the end of FY20-21.
- The proposed legislation extends the Act indefinitely. As a result, the current funding applicable to the PHPD position will be extended indefinitely.
- There are approximately 1,100 suicides in Tennessee annually.
- Based on information provided by the DOH, the proposed legislation cannot be accommodated within existing resources. The DOH will require one Epidemiologist 2 position and two Registered Nurse 4 positions to review medical records to ascertain medications prescribed to victims of suicide.
- The Epidemiologist 2 position will establish a database of medications prescribed for inclusion into the report and for matching of database information currently available on the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database and the National Violent Death Reporting System.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures associated with the three additional positions is estimated to be \$12,900 [(\$1,600 computer cost + \$2,700 office furniture) x 3 positions].

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- The recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the Epidemiologist 2 position is estimated to be \$116,187 (\$85,524 salary + \$20,763 benefits + \$7,900 administrative cost + \$1,400 communications + \$600 supplies).
- The recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the two Registered Nurse 4 positions is estimated to be \$205,202 [(\$73,872 salary + \$18,829 benefits + \$7,900 administrative cost + \$1,400 communications + \$600 supplies) x 2 positions].
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$321,389 (\$116,187 + \$205,202).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/vlh